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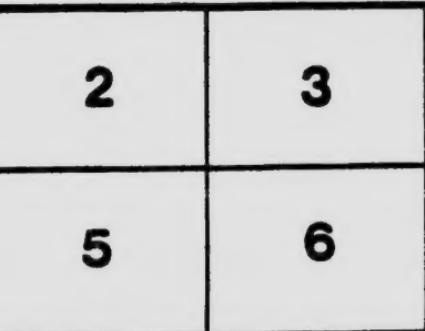
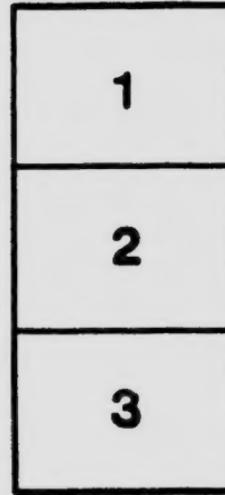
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# The Young People and the Forward Movement



Prepared by the Board of Sabbath Schools  
and Young People's Societies of the Pres-  
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# P\*\*\* The Young People and the Forward Movement



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## FORWARD!

An inspirational program authorized by the General Assembly for the use of Young People as a Forward Movement Rally Service has for its title the single and striking word "Forward."

This word ought to be printed on a Banner and displayed wherever Young People meet during the next five years. It ought to be borne aloft from Presbytery to Presbytery throughout the Church as was the Fiery Cross in olden days in Scotland, summoning the clans to muster for aggressive warfare.

### The Call to Advance.

It is the summons of God. It is the law of all life. We must progress or perish or at least be punished. The penalty is that we are cut off from the best things or have life itself taken away. This is true of plant life, of animal life, of human life, of institutions, of nations, of religions. It is truest of all of Religion. The great religions of the world are the missionary

religions. They grow by conquest. The faiths that followed "The God of things as they are" have gone to the scrapheap of dead and discredited things.

The Church to-day is challenged to advance, to get ready to sanctify and inspire a new world order of liberty and brotherhood. At our peril we hug the shore and refuse to launch out into the deep.

We are encouraged to advance by the moral adventures of history, Moses at the Red Sea changing by the enterprise of faith a horde of slaves into a nation of idealists, Paul at Troas following the gleam and giving Christianity to the Continent that was to rule the world, Livingstone called at once by the darkness of Asia and of Africa and responding with heroic indifference "anywhere provided it be forward," Robertson unwearingly following the long lonely trails of the West with the Gospel Story, hearing as he went,

The tread of pioneers

Of nations yet to be

The first low wash of waves

Which yet should roll a human sea

### The Challenge to Youth.

And if our times call for adventure where are we to look for its disciples? Where they have always been found—in the lovely Land of Youth, region of hope and glory. Jesus, Leader and Saviour of the world, Himself lived and died a young man and on the shoulders of twelve rugged

Galilean youths He laid the responsibility of His world campaign. Down through the ages the Cross of Christ has wakened the chivalry of young men and women in the bright morning of their life and for His sake they went outward bound to expatriation, martyrdom and the life that shall never end. It is inconceivable that the young people of our time, the heirs of all the ages who have seen their own comrades with a sublime self-forgetfulness unexcelled in history cheerfully

"Lay the world away

Give up the rich sweet wine of life

And all the years of work and joy

And those who would have been their sons—their immortality."

It is inconceivable that the trustees of this noble testimony should be found wanting when called by the Church and Nation to get ready for the tasks of to-morrow.

### The Summons to Service.

And what is there in the challenge of these times to appeal to the spirit of adventure and heroism in young people? The League of Nations has been formed. The Civilized nations have turned their backs on war. But war has left us its "moral equivalent." The world has furled the flag of bloodshed but it has unfurled the flag of service. The war has left on our hands a bankrupt world and has shown us how much more appalling her need than we had dreamt. The summons of to-day is

to the saving of a world. Once more has come to youth the inviting opportunity of the pathfinder and the pioneer. Trails into a brighter to-morrow have to be blazed. Blue prints of a larger edifice must be drafted. The Day of the Crusades has come again, to rescue from the hand of greed and slavery and exploitation, the yearning children of democracy. Once more the air thrills with the spirit of the Crusaders. "Heart of Christ we follow Thee or die". From the ranks of youth in the past, Christ has called the noble army of the martyrs the stalwart soldiers of Reform, the heroic missionaries of the Cross. The 19th Century has given to the world the Sunday School, the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. the Christian Endeavor, the Student Volunteer Organizations—an unending procession of movements enlisting millions of young men and women for Christian discipleship. And to-day sounds the summons to service as never before. The Church is calling her children to her aid—Girding herself for a new Forward Movement on a war-scale to match the needs of a new age. She confidently looks to her Young People to rally to her standards with Spartan consecration and enthusiasm.

### **The Need of Consecration.**

The real Forward Movement is always spiritual, born from above, centering in the souls of men—in the secret place where they live alone with God. The soul of all

improvement is the improvement of the soul. Unless and until young people consecrate themselves to Christ and His Service in their own personal lives, we cannot hope by organizations or conventions to make of them a real Forward Movement Force. We need to see take place in every part of this Land what happened once by the shore of the Sea of Galilee a new motive and objective take possession of young life—"The firm of Zebedee's sons, Fishermen" changed to "The Firm of Zebedee's Sons, Fishers of Men." If only the invaluable life-force now so lavishly spent in pleasure, in play and in commercial pursuits, could be made available for the Kingdom of God and invested in the Service of Men, nothing in the perils and problems of the day could resist the speedy and sure conquest of the world for Christ. "Deeper" says a great leader of young people" than our need of men, deeper than our need of money, yea down deep at the bottom of our spiritless life is the need of prevailing prayer and earnest consecration."

## FORWARD IN THE LOCAL CONGREGATION!

The first rallying ground and training school for the Young People must be in the local congregation. In every one of the congregations in our Presbyterian Church in Canada there are young people, those who have needs and qualities peculiar to

youth and these ought to be formed into a Division or Company of the Church for training and service in connection with the Forward Movement.

### A Unified Organization.

In every congregation a canvas ought to be made of all available young people and an inspirational rally held for which an attractive program has been prepared and which is sent out free on application. Organization should immediately follow where none exists at present. Organization is to young people what harness is to a colt, what the pack is to the wolf—the means of usefulness and the strength and courage of enterprise.

The ideal is one inclusive organization for all the young people in the congregation which would be responsible for carrying out the entire program. Why have two or more separate organizations with different officers and under different names attending to the one task? This organization would be known as the Young People's Division or Department of the congregation, would be self-governing and under the session, have control and direction of all the work of the Young People—Bible Study, Mission Work, Social Gathering, all Sunday and Through-the-week meetings necessary to give the young people a complete religious training. In this Young People's Division there might be several platoons or companies. An Older Boys' Square, An Older Girls' Corps, Young

**Women's and Young Men's Classes or Clubs, but all unified in a single controlling organization.**

### **A Complete Curriculum.**

To fit the young people for life and to qualify them to play their part in a great Forward Movement they should be given in the local congregation a complete religious education. Such an education is three-fold including Instruction, Worship and Training. Bible Classes must be set up to furnish Instruction. Through-the-Week meetings to provide practical training, and Church attendance developed that the benefits of worship may be secured. It will be the duty of the Minister the Session and the Officers of the Young People's Division to see that all the young people in the congregation so far as possible take this complete curriculum, and receive a complete religious training.

The General Assembly has authorized a special curriculum of Instruction, Worship and Training for all the Young People of the Church which is available in printed form and sent free on application.

To cover this ground will require time and application on the part of the young people and their leaders, but without thorough drill and training no army of conquest was ever put upon the battlefield.

### **An Aggressive Missionary Policy.**

Special attention should be given to the cultivation of the missionary spirit. The

Forward Movement is in reality a great Missionary Movement. It aims to strengthen all the forces of the Church so as to make the Nation Christian and to give Christ to the world in the speediest possible time. The Missionary spirit develops naturally and quickly in the generous hearts of youth. For them the motto "Others" which the late General Booth once cabled to his army round the world, might be added to the slogan "Forward."

A pamphlet has been prepared by the Church entitled "The Young People's Missionary Policy" indicating the kind of missionary instruction required and a definite policy as to the amount and methods of the missionary contributions of the young folks.

### Making Use of Helps.

A complete series of helps covering every phase of their work has been provided by our own Church for the young people. These include Departmentally Graded and Improved Uniform Lessons, Topic Cards for Mid-week meetings for young people and for Older Boys and Older Girls, with write-ups on them in the Young People's own paper "East and West" and the Young People's own illustrated magazine "The Pathfinder." Rally Programs and Convention Programs and other timely helps are sent out to all leaders of young people whose addresses are forwarded to the office, Rev. Dr. J. C. Robertson, General Secretary, 411 Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

## **Setting up a Standard.**

All people who would realize their ideals need some standard to reach up to and to inspire them. The Church has set up a Standard for her young people in connection with the Outline Curriculum. All Young People's Organizations which reach this Standard will be placed on the Honor Roll and reported in the Pathfinder, the official organ of all Presbyterian Young People. Why not seek honorable mention at the hands of your Church as soldiers do at the hands of their King and Country?

Following is the Standard in outline:

**1. Organization**

Suitable for Bible Classes and all other Young People's meetings.

**2. Survey**

A complete list of all the young people of the congregation.

**3. Enlistment**

A personal invitation to all to: (1) the Church Service; (2) the Bible Class; (3) the Y.P. meeting.

**4. Worship**

1. In private. 2. In Bible Class and Y.P. meeting. 3. In church service.

**5. Instruction.**

In Young People's Bible Classes.

**6. Training**

In Young People's meeting. See Topic Card.

**7. Social Fellowship**

In regular and special meetings.

**8. Leadership**

In special classes, for example: Teacher Training, Missions, Social Service, Evangelism, Life Problems, etc.

**9. Missions and Service**

1. In personal canvas of all for the Budget.
2. In dedication of life and service to Christ and the church.

**10. Report**

At the close of each year to the Convener of the Presbytery's Committee on S. S. and Y. P. S.

## **Young Men out of Khaki**

A Forward Movement of Young People with the khaki lads left out would be a sorry muster. These brave fellows who fought our battles so creditably abroad are badly needed in the conquering armies of peace. Their virility, frankness, enthusiasm and disciplined experience ought to be a great asset to any young people's organization, and any such organization that doesn't make every effort to re-interest and re-enlist these returning heroes is falling down on an enterprise of capital importance. With the Khaki lads in view and young men in general Young People's Societies should provide plenty of social evenings in connection with their program, should see that suitable Bible Class Studies are provided including the discussion of public questions from the Christian point of view, and in all Rallies and Conventions make room on the program and in the audience for the representatives and interests of the soldiers. Now is the hour to get next to these men to do them good and get good from them, when the home-coming of 400,000 soldiers mostly young men is coincident with the beginning

of a great Forward Movement of young people in training for aggressive service.

### **Forward as a Denomination.**

Young People when well organized at home in the local congregation will want to reach out hands of comradeship to all the other young people of the Church and seek to get brigaded with them in community and national service and in the backing of the Church for the conquest of the world for Christ.

### **The Supreme Command.**

The General Assembly at its last meeting turned its special attention to the young people of the church with a view to linking them up with and securing their co-operation in the great Forward Movement. When the Spartan King was asked why there were no walls to her defenceless city he pointed to his soldiers drilling in the streets and said "These are the walls of Sparta." With a feeling akin to this the General Assembly framed up and passed the following important resolutions.

1. **Congregational Young People's Rally.** "That, in the eight day series of congregational meetings, at least one meeting should be devoted to the interests of the young people and a special effort made to have a suitable programme for young people presented in a challenging form.
2. **Young People's Rally Programme.** "That the Forward Movement Rally Programme being prepared for the first Sunday in October be widely used by congregations for the deepening of interest among young people.

3. **Presbytery Young People's Rally.** "That it be a definite part of the Forward Movement to include plans for holding Presbyterial Rallies of young people in co-operation with the Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies.
4. **Special Peace Thank Offering.** "That, in all these gatherings, a definite challenge be presented to the young people to accept the responsibility for seeing that all young people have an opportunity for contributing to the Special Peace Thank Offering.
5. **Re-dedication of Life and Service.** "That, in all these gatherings, the programme presented shall include a definite emphasis on re-dedication of life and consecration to enlarged service on the part of all the young people."

### **Forming into Presbyterial Battalions.**

The most successful units in the late war were City and County battalions recruited from a definite area and composed of men with common home ties and local civic patriotism. Similarly it is proposed to call out the young people of the church by Presbyteries to face their common tasks in connection with the Forward Movement. The Forward Movement Committee and the Committee on Religious Education in each Presbytery throughout the Church are instructed jointly by General Assembly to arrange for Presbyterial Rallies of their young people at which the great objectives of the Forward Movement are to be set forth by the leaders of the Church and discussed by the young people themselves, and if deemed advisable to form Presbyterial Unions of the young people for the holding of Rallies

from year to year, for the consideration by them of the Church's ever-expanding program.

Additional Rallies of Young People in Towns and Cities and other community centres might be held with advantage, in union with the Young People of other denominations also engaged in promoting Forward Movements of their own. To get the best results from these gatherings they ought largely to be in the hands of the young people themselves.

### **Recruits for the Ministry and for Special Service.**

On one of the Religious Education charts published by the Forward Movement Committee entitled "Trained Leadership" and which may also be obtained on a Lantern Slide appears the following striking advertisement and appeal:

#### **Wanted—In Next Five Years Trained Leaders.**

##### **1. 500 Recruits for the Ministry.**

These must first be nurtured and inspired in our Homes and Sunday Schools.

##### **2. 100 Special Church Workers.**

Both men and women are needed as Directors of Religious Education in the Local Church as Social Workers, Deaconesses, etc. The demand for such leaders is greatly in excess of the supply.

### 3. 50,000 Trained Lay Workers, for Teachers of Sunday School classes and for leaders in Older Boys' and Girls' Work.

In view of the new opportunity of our times young people facing the investment of their lives ought seriously to consider whether the burden of proof is not on them to show that the Providence of God prevents their entering at one or other of these many open doors of special service for the Church and the Master. The voice of the Lord is again saying whom shall I send? And who will go for us? The Kingdom waits for the response of thousands of young men and women, "Here am I, send me."

### The Great Peace Offering.

The Protestant Churches in Canada are uniting in a great National Peace Offering as a Thanksgiving to God for Victory. The Presbyterian Church is seeking to raise \$4,000,000 as its share of this thankoffering. In all Rallies a definite challenge should be presented to the Young People to accept the responsibility for seeing that all Young People have an opportunity for contributing to this special Peace Offering. Fifty thousand young men sleeping beneath the little Crosses of France ask this of their Canadian Comrades who live. They died that a new world might be born. We must give, that their sacrifice may not have been in vain.

## "Come on Canadians."

The 22nd of April 1915 will be for all time a red-letter day in Canadian history. On that day was fought the second battle of Ypres when the Canadians blocked the gap made by the retreating Algerians attacked with gas for the first time. The story is told by Sgt. Gibbons an eye-witness of the incident, how when the Canadians were advancing the line began to sway under the combined attack of rifle, machine gun and shell fire, and it looked as though there would be a halt and a retreat. Suddenly an officer leaped from the Line and waving his gun said to his staggering comrades "Come on Canadians" at which magic word the line came on at the double, took their objective and saved the day, for the Channel Ports, the Empire and Liberties of the World.

Let there be heard at this time of crisis in every Presbyterian Church throughout the Dominion the voice of our leaders to the young men and women saying "In the name of Jesus Christ, In the name of His advancing Church, In the name of your beloved Country, In the name of your Fallen Comrades, 'Come on, Canadians.'"

